WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for capturing and storing data from a network, comprising:

specifying at least one target data accessible from a network location addressable by a network address; and

capturing said at least one target data from data received from said network location at specified dates and times.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said network is an Internet and said network location corresponds to a web page.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said specifying said at least one target data includes specifying name and type of the target data.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

storing the captured target data in an output file.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

storing the captured target data in an output database.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein said specifying said at least one target data includes specifying data capture times.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein said specifying said at least one target data includes setting up to perform substitution of input parameters, and allowing capturing of said at least one target data from a network location.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein said performing substitution of said input parameters includes identifying a parameter type of substitution parameters.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein said parameter type is a static text.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein said parameter type is a numeric sequence.

11. The method of claim 8, wherein said parameter type is a file.

12. The method of claim 8, wherein said parameter type is a database.

13. The method of claim 7, wherein said capturing from said network location includes repeatedly capturing from said network location for each of said input parameters, where said each of said input parameters provides different target data from said network location.

14. The method of claim 7, wherein said performing substitution of said input parameters includes substitution of at least one nested input parameter, said at least one nested input parameter enabling data capture from said network location.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein said substitution of said at least one nested input parameter includes generating and substituting a set of input parameters to address different data from said network location containing said at least one target data.

16. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

locating and extracting said at least one target data.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein said at least one target data is extracted from variable format hypertext markup language (HTML) or extensible markup language (XML) data.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein said extracting said at least one target data from variable format HTML or XML data includes using dynamic tag string matching method.

19. The method of claim 17, wherein said extracting said at least one target data from variable format HTML or XML data includes using dynamic object model tree matching.

20. The method of claim 17, wherein said extracting said at least one target data from variable format HTML or XML data includes using character sequence bounding.

21. The method of claim 1, wherein said specifying said at least one target data includes specifying a target data parameter type.

22. The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one target data includes text, image, or hyperlinks to other network locations.

23. The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one target data includes graphical data element from the network.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein said capturing said at least one target data includes applying character recognition to said graphical data element to extract text information.

25. The method of claim 1, wherein said specifying said at least one target data includes enabling inputting parameters for said at least one target data using a graphical interface.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein said graphical interface includes a web browser.

27. A method for capturing and storing data from a network, comprising:

specifying at least one target data accessible from a page of an existing web browser; and

capturing said at least one target data from said page at specified dates and times.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein said page of said existing web browser is defined by hypertext (HTML) or extensible markup language (XML).

29. The method of claim 28, wherein said specifying said at least one target data includes graphically highlighting and isolating HTML or XML elements corresponding to said at least one target data.

30. The method of claim 27, wherein said specifying said at least one target data includes selecting said at least one target data using a point device such as a mouse.

31. The method of claim 27, wherein said specifying said at least one target data includes entering input substitution parameters in a menu-driven graphical interface.

32. The method of claim 27, wherein said capturing includes retrieving data from a network server at specified dates and times.

33. The method of claim 27, further comprising:

storing said at least one target data captured from said web browser page.

34. The method of claim 33, wherein said storing includes storing said at least one target data into a file.

35. The method of claim 33, wherein said storing includes storing said at least one target data into a database.

36. A data capture and storage system, comprising:

a graphical interface element configured to display at least one target page;

a selection device operating to enable selection of target data on said at least one target page for capture and storage; and

a processor coupled to said graphical interface element, said processor capable of being programmed with a plurality of configurations to locate, extract, and store said target data according to said plurality of configurations.

37. The method of claim 36, wherein said graphical interface element includes an existing web browser used to display said at least one target page with added features to enable target data capture.

38. The method of claim 36, wherein said selection device is a mouse.

39. The method of claim 36, wherein said processor includes a receiving element configured to receive a current date and time, said processor operating to capture said target data from said at least one target page when the current date and time matches a specified next capture date and time.

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